

Asa Hunte

Intro to Philosophy

Alliance University

March 22<sup>nd</sup> , 2023

## Lesson 4

### Locke Qualities and Ideas

1. Explain in your own words what Locke means by a "quality" of matter.

Quality of matter is how well we are able to interact with something and produce ideas from it in our mind. An example of this would be a hot stove. We immediately remove our hand from it after touching it as we perceive it to be too hot to touch. That's one idea we were able to divest from it. Something else that we are able to more thoroughly examine with our senses would be matter with more qualities or, more qualities that appear to us objectively like a salad. We can put the salad in our mouth and perceive more qualities than we would from a stove such as what ingredients might be inside the salad, the temperature of the salad and the texture and taste of each individual ingredient.

2. Give three examples of Locke's Primary Qualities, and three examples of Secondary Qualities. How does Locke explain the key differences between Primary and Secondary Qualities? Locke says the key difference between Primary and Secondary qualities is that Primary qualities are infallible truths of matter that do not depend upon our senses and are true regardless of whether we are there or not. Secondary qualities are objective truths

we can experience from matter with our senses like smelling cheese and understanding it has a very strong smell to us or looking at an object and seeing it as a specific color.

Three examples of primary qualities are bulk or the space that said matter takes up, extension which means the height or width of an object in numbers, motion or rest which is whether the object is in a state of motion which means it is moving or in a state of rest which means it is stationary. Three examples for secondary qualities are feeling that a rock is hard and coarse, smelling food and discerning that it smells like a specific ingredient like cheese, and seeing an object and determining what color it seems to be to us.

3. Present an example from Locke's writing that describes a material object in terms of its fundamental primary qualities versus its secondary qualities, and how Locke's distinction makes sense of the reality of that object.

Locke notes that fire has the power produce a new color or consistency in wax by its primary qualities by producing a new color or changing its consistency and at the same time, the fire has the potential to produce the feeling of warmth or heat inside the perceiver. From this, it can be deduced that the flame gives off heat and light

Berkeley "nothing outside the mind"

4. Explain Berkeley's criteria for "existence" - what does he think we mean when we say something is "real" or that it "exists"?

He means we are able to perceive it or there are conditions that enable us to perceive it with our physical senses or spiritual senses (maybe).

5. Based on his definition of existence, why does Berkeley think we should not believe in the existence of independent Primary Qualities? What does this mean about the existence of matter?

Because if there are no conditions under which you can perceive primary qualities, then you shouldn't think they exist. We experience them with our senses, but we can also have a sensory experience in our dreams so what makes it different? The fact that we cannot change the qualities of the matter despite our experiencing it makes it real. There are only two things that we know for sure are real through perception and experience. Minds and ideas but who's mind does all these ideas come from? From this, we figure there must be a powerful mind supplying our minds with all these ideas.

6. As a result of his critique of materialism, explain what Berkeley has to say about the ultimate source of all the sensory experiences we receive.

The ultimate source of all sensory experiences is from God and through him all things exist because God's mind is what holds all things together. Matter is unthinking and inanimate so it isn't as if thoughts could be created from them. Its better for there to be one single posit mind as the source for all of our thoughts.

